

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of handling data packets in a network switch is disclosed. The method includes placing incoming packets into an input queue and applying the input data packets to an address resolution logic engine. A lookup is performed to determine whether certain packet fields are stored in a lookup table; and the result of the lookup is also examined to determine if it provides a trunk group ID for a particular data packet of the input data packets. When the lookup provides a trunk group ID, the trunk group ID is used to determine an egress port and the particular data packet is forwarded to the egress port. Alternatively, the packet is discarded, forwarded, or modified based upon the result of the lookup, where the lookup does not provide a trunk group ID. A network switch using the method is also disclosed and methods directed to mirroring of data packets are also disclosed.